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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/816,416	OKABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JONATHAN R. BECKLEY	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☒ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *01/19/2006*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are **rejected** under **35 U.S.C. 102(b)** as being anticipated by **Gassho et el. (Publication Number 2002/0060806)**.

Regarding **Claim 1, Gassho** teaches a print job management apparatus **(Paragraph 2)** that manages print jobs, which are executed by a printing device **(Paragraph 2)**, said print job management apparatus comprising:

a job acceptance module **(See Figure 1, "receiving")** that receives each print job with image data **(Paragraph 6, lines 1-2; and Paragraph 51, lines 3-6)**;

a job storage module **("spool buffer")** that has a capacity of storing multiple print jobs received by said job acceptance module **(Paragraph 4, lines 5-7)**;

a redundant data retrieval module **("input module")** that retrieves redundant image data among image data of print jobs stored in said job storage module **(Paragraph 84,lines 11-16)**; and

a job status setting module **(See Figure 2, "Status Management Table)** that leaves at least one of the redundant image data retrieved by said redundant data retrieval module while deleting the other of the retrieved redundant image data **(Paragraph 87)**, and sets a status of a print job in which the

image data was deleted, to be executable with remaining image data by the printing device **(Paragraph 87; Paragraph 92, and see Figure 8)**.

Regarding **Claim 2, Gassho** further discloses each print job includes identification information for identifying the image data **(Paragraph 54, lines 1-4; and see Figure 3 , "ID")**, and

said redundant data retrieval module retrieves image data having identical identification information among the image data of the print jobs stored in said job storage module **(Paragraph 10, lines 11-13; and Paragraph 84, lines 11-16)**.

Regarding **Claim 3, Gassho** further discloses the identification information includes at least one of a file name of each image data, a size of the image data, identification information for identifying a digital camera used to record the image data, and date of recording the image data with the digital camera **(Paragraph 54; and see Figure 3 , "ID")**.

Regarding **Claim 4, Gassho** further discloses said job status setting module sets the status of the print job in which the image data was deleted, such that the remaining image data among the redundant image data is shared by a print job having the remaining image data and the print job in which the image data was deleted **(Paragraph 61, lines 1-4; Paragraph 98, lines 4-15; See Figure 8 and 10, Noted:**

"STATUSES" throughout steps show print being deleted; and See Figure 9; the mother print job is put into a status of completed which is then deleted).

Regarding **Claim 5, Gassho** further discloses each print job is executable by the printing device by utilizing reference data, which is generated for reference to image data of the print job in the process of storage into said job storage module, to read the image data stored in said job storage module **(Paragraph 28)**, and

said job status setting module overwrites reference data of the print job in which the image data was deleted, with reference data of a print job having the remaining image data among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 87, lines 1-6)**.

Regarding **Claim 6, Gassho** further discloses said job status setting module preferentially deletes image data stored earlier in said job storage module, among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 87, "the mother job is eliminated", Noted: the mother job being created before the daughter job; and See Figure 8)**.

Regarding **Claim 7, Gassho** further discloses said job status setting module preferentially deletes printed image data, among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 98, lines 4-15; and see Figure 9)**.

Regarding **Claim 8, Gassho** further discloses said print job management apparatus further comprising:

an image processing module **("print execution module')** that makes image data of each print job **(Paragraph 51, lines 3-4)** which is stored in said job storage module, subjected to a preset series of image processing **(Paragraph 59)** and thereby converts the image data into print data printable by the printing device **(Paragraph 7)**,

wherein said redundant data retrieval module and said job status setting module respectively execute the retrieval and the deletion and setting the status of the print job, while said image processing module is not activated **(See Figure 7, see the steps of STATUSES; Noted: Gassho discloses the steps of each status if "shifted" throughout execution showing that each step is activated individually)**.

Regarding **Claim 9, Gassho** further discloses said print job management apparatus further comprising:

a job deletion module that deletes a print job stored in said job storage module at a preset timing **(Paragraph 10, lines 1-8)**.

Regarding **Claim 10, Gassho** further discloses the preset timing is any of a timing when a total number of print jobs stored in said job storage module reaches a preset level, a timing when a total storage capacity of print jobs stored in said job

storage module reaches a preset volume, and a timing when a duration of storage of each print job stored in said job storage module reaches a preset time period **(Paragraph 10, lines 1-8)**.

Regarding **Claim 11, Gassho** further discloses said job deletion module preferentially deletes a print job stored earlier, among the print jobs stored / in said job storage module **(Paragraph 87, lines 1-6, the mother job, which was created and stored prior to the daughter job is eliminated; see Figures 7-9)**.

Regarding **Claim 12, Gassho** teaches a print job management method that manages print jobs **(Paragraph 32, lines 1-5)**, which are executed by a printing device **(Paragraph 2)**, said print job management method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving each print job with image data **(See Figure 1, "receiving"; Paragraph 6, lines 1-2; and Paragraph 51, lines 3-6)**;

(b) storing the received print job into a job storage module that has a capacity of storing multiple print jobs **(Paragraph 4, lines 4-7; "spool buffer);**

(c) retrieving redundant image data among image data of print jobs stored in said job storage module **(Paragraph 84, lines 11-16; "input module")**; and

(d) leaving at least one of the redundant image data retrieved in said step (c) while deleting the other of the retrieved redundant image data **(Paragraph 87)**, and setting a status of a print job in which the image data was deleted, to

be executable with remaining image data by the printing device **(Paragraph87; Paragraph 92; and see Figure 8, "STATUSES")**.

Regarding **Claim 13, Gassho** further discloses each print job includes identification information for identifying the image data **(Paragraph 54, lines 1-4; and see Figure 3, "ID")**, and

said step (c) retrieves image data having identical identification information among the image data of the print jobs stored in the job storage module, as the redundant image data **(Paragraph10, lines 11-13; and Paragraph 84, lines 11-16)**.

Regarding **Claim 14, Gassho** further discloses the identification information includes at least one of a file name of each image data, a size of the image data, identification information for identifying a digital camera used to record the image data, and date of recording the image data with the digital camera **(Paragraph 54, lines and see Figure 3, "ID")**.

Regarding **Claim 15, Gassho** further discloses said step (d) sets the status of the print job in which the image data was deleted, such that the remaining image data among the redundant image data is shared by a print job having the remaining image data and the print job in which the image data was deleted **(Paragraph 61, lines 1-4; Paragraph 98, lines 4-15; See Figure 8 and 10, Noted: "STATUSES" throughout**

steps show print being deleted; and See Figure 9; the mother print job is put into a status of completed which is then deleted).

Regarding **Claim 16, Gassho** further discloses each print job is executable by the printing device by utilizing reference data, which is generated for reference to image data of the print job in the process of storage into the job storage module, to read the image data stored in the job storage module **(Paragraph 28)**, and

said step (d) overwrites reference data of the print job in which the image data was deleted, with reference data of a print job having the remaining image data among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 87, lines 1-6)**.

Regarding **Claim 17, Gassho** further discloses said step (d) preferentially deletes image data stored earlier in the job storage module, among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 87, "the mother job is eliminated", Noted: the mother job is created before the daughter job; See Figure 8)**.

Regarding **Claim 18, Gassho** further discloses said step (d) preferentially deletes printed image data, among the redundant image data **(Paragraph 98, lines 4-15; and see Figure 9)**.

Regarding **Claim 19, Gassho** further discloses said print job management method further comprising the step of:

(e) making image data of each print job **(Paragraph 51, lines 3-4)**, which is stored in the job storage module, subjected to a preset series of image processing **(Paragraph 59)** and thereby converting the image data into print data printable by the printing device **(Paragraph 7)**,

wherein said step (c) and said step (d) respectively execute the retrieval and the deletion and setting the status of the print job, while said step (e) is not proceeded **(See Figure 7, see the steps of STATUSES; Noted: Gassho discloses the steps of each status if "shifted" throughout execution showing that each step is activated individually)**..

Regarding **Claim 20, Gassho** further discloses said print job management method further comprising the step of:

(f) deleting a print job stored in the job storage module at a preset timing **(Paragraph 10, lines 1-8)**.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JONATHAN R. BECKLEY whose telephone number is (571)270-3432. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 7:30-5:00 EST (Alternate Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TWYLER L. HASKINS can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jonathan R Beckley/
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3/12/2008

/Twyler L. Haskins/

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3/13/08